

Mrs. Rajavi, who has not only led this fight, but has also offered all kinds of assistance to the residents of Camp Ashraf.

HONORING MR. JOHN E. BAIR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John "Jack" E. Bair, a proud veteran, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who passed away on November 17th, 2010.

Mr. Bair was born on May 9th, 1928 in Ripley Township, Minnesota. He was the youngest of Basil E. Bair and Lela Beth Bunnell's four children. Jack joined the United States Army in 1943, serving our country for 31 years and eventually retiring in 1974 as a Chief Warrant Officer Four. For his service to his country, Chief Bair was awarded the WWII Victory Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean War Service Medal. He played a critical role training his fellow soldiers in the deployment of the National Air Defense Systems as well as the implementation of the Nike and Hercules missile systems.

During the course of his life Mr. Bair lived and served in South Korea, the South Pacific, Turkey, Alaska, Colorado, California, Alabama, and Minnesota. After his retirement from the Army, Jack settled with his family in Ashland, Oregon and eventually moved to his home in Cibola, Texas. Jack was an avid reader and a feared billiards and cribbage opponent. He excelled in hunting, fishing, water skiing, bowling and pinocle.

Jack is survived by his wife of 48 years, Mardell Rae Bair, his daughter Genie Jones and her husband Mike, his daughter LeyAnn Pyne and her husband Kevin, his son John T. Bair and his wife Amy, his daughter-in-law Dawn Bair, and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He happily joins his brothers, Eugene and Robert Bair, as well as his sons, Daniel and Jason Bair.

Jack Bair lived a life of honor and service to both his country and family. He passed on the importance of hard work and doing things right the first time to all those he met. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow members to join me in honoring the life of John E. Bair and the lasting legacy he leaves behind.

**HEALTHY, HUNGER-FREE KIDS
ACT OF 2010**

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, S. 3307, to reauthorize and improve the child nutrition programs and the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children, WIC. Further, I wish to expand upon my floor remarks to clarify the intent of my support for specific provisions included in this legislation.

This legislation makes important improvements to improve children's access to the

child nutrition programs, improve quality of nutrition benefits provided, protect the Federal investment, and promote financial solvency of program providers. S. 3307 provides robust reforms that inspire public-private partnerships, ensure better stewardship of Federal funds, and better meet the nutritional needs of children.

Many of these provisions included in S. 3307 were also considered in H.R. 5504, The Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act, which was reported favorably out of the Committee on Education and Labor on July 15, 2010 with a bipartisan vote of 32–13. I am pleased that both pieces of legislation share many critical priorities to strengthen the child nutrition programs and provide the following clarifications on provisions within S. 3307.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAMS

First, this legislation authorizes the Secretary to directly certify eligible children for free school meals using Medicaid data. Direct certification is a method to automatically enroll eligible low-income children for free school meals using data from specific means tested programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Direct certification of eligible children for free schools meals reduces household and administrative burden, and can improve program integrity by relying on electronic data matching systems rather than household income applications. Direct certification using Medicaid data has the potential to be a very promising mechanism to substantially reduce the number of families that have to complete a household application for school meals in addition to other Federal means tested programs with similar income requirements.

While H.R. 5504 established a nationwide option for all States to utilize direct certification using Medicaid data, S. 3307 limits implementation to a demonstration project in school districts selected by the Secretary. Despite the more limited scope, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that this provision will connect approximately 115,000 more eligible children with free school meals each year that currently do not participate.

Furthermore, I commend the Secretary of Agriculture for committing to take additional administrative action to bolster this legislation and further improve children's access to the school meal programs by testing new effective methods for maximizing the use of direct certification to improve eligible children's access to free and reduced price school meals. Upon passage of this legislation, I urge the Secretary to maximize the potential of direct certification using Medicaid data by using the pilot authority established in section 18(c) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to test specific methods that may more effectively identify eligible children. Specifically, I encourage the Secretary to use this authority to identify effective statewide direct certification systems using Medicaid data, or to test methods by which Medicaid data may be effectively used to directly certify eligible children for reduced price meals.

Secondly, this legislation creates new alternatives for low-income schools and districts to count and claim reimbursable meals by establishing additional community-data based methods rather than household applications. Section 104 of this legislation allows the Secretary

to reimburse high-poverty schools or districts based on an approximation of the number of students who would qualify for free or reduced priced meals. The Secretary will make this determination based on data from direct certification or other rigorous community survey data to determine the percent of children attending schools or districts that are income eligible for free or reduced price school meals. This provision makes school meals more accessible to low-income children and will significantly reduce administrative burden for schools.

It is important that the Secretary recognize that the authority provided by this provision allows these alternative counting and claiming methods to be available to any school or district nationwide, consistent with the parameters of the provision. There are approximately 12,000 schools in which more than 80 percent of students are certified for free or reduced price meals. I urge the Secretary to ensure that these new options for counting and claiming reimbursable meals be available to all eligible high-poverty schools that elect to participate, to conduct appropriate outreach, and to provide necessary technical assistance to support adoption and compliance.

INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

I am pleased that this legislation includes section 105, an authorization of grants to expand the school breakfast program. This provision recognizes the important role that the school breakfast program plays in promoting diet quality, learning, and curbing child hunger. This section authorizes the Secretary to focus technical assistance and support to increase children's access to this program by implementing best practices to provide breakfast, including through tested best practices such as breakfast in the classroom or by offering the meal service as part of the school day.

I am disappointed, however, that this legislation does not provide critical funds to help schools overcome initial start-up barriers, such as minor equipment costs or inadequate staffing. Barriers such as these can preclude schools from moving toward sustainable school breakfast program improvements. I appreciate, though, that the Secretary has expressed his commitment to expanding children's access to this important program through administrative actions which encourage best practices in school breakfast programs such as meal delivery outside of the cafeteria and the offering of school breakfast as an integral part of the school day. The Secretary's commitment will help to ensure that children who want to participate are able to participate in school breakfast programs.

IMPROVING DIET QUALITY THROUGH THE SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMS

I understand the Secretary is currently working to promulgate proposed regulations to update the school meal nutrition standards to reflect the recommendations from the Institute of Medicine. The last time that the nutrition standards for school meals were revised was in 1995. Improvements to reflect current science are long past due and I urge the Secretary to work expeditiously to promulgate proposed regulations to update school nutrition standards.

There have been concerns expressed by stakeholders that the improvements necessary for the school meal patterns to reflect current